LICHFIELD-HOUSE GALLERY OF MODERN PAINTINGS.

A COLLECTION of pictures by a number of foreign painters, whose performances are almost unknown in England, has been opened, our readers are already aware, for public Exhibition, in the mansion known as Lichfield-house, St. James's-square. The house itself is one of fine proportions, and contains an unusually grand suite of reception-rooms. It was built, if we mistake not, by Athenian Stuart. In this suite of apartments, both on the ground and on the first floor, the collection, numbering about 500 specimens of pictorial art, is placed. Although the majority of the pictures are by the artists of the various European continental schools, there are also several by English painters. The intention in forming the collection for public exhibition was to offer a kind of succursal to the Glass Palace, where Painting was the only branch of fine art excluded from its comprehensive plan.

Among the English painters whose works form a portion of this exhibition, are, Cope, F. Grant, O'Neil, Cave Thomas, Lance, P. F. Poole, J. Ward, E. M. Ward, J. Allen, Dighton, Lucy, Lucas, Middleton, Willis, Maddox, Earl, and several others. The most striking work of English art is the great cattle picture by the veteran Ward, a *chef d'œuvre* in its line, which should belong to the nation, if a truly national gallery of British art be ever formed. The foreign pictures are principally French and German, several Belgian, and others from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Russia, Switzerland, and Italy. The French school includes the celebrated picture of the Massacre of the Innocents, by L. Cogniet, and the Woman taken in Adultery, by Signol, both well known by engravings. There is also a striking picture, on a painful subject, by Leuillier: it represents the combat of wild beasts in the Colosseum, in which the Christian prisoners were devoured, in presence of the Emperor Domitian and 80,000 spectators. The other contributors of the French school are Gosse, Schopin, Biard, H. and R. Lehmann, Rossignon, Isabey, Scheffer St. Jean, of Lyons, Felon, Ziegler, Ziem, Lapito, A. Leleux, &c. A Landscape, by Grolig, is enriched with figures by Horace Vernet, and a little cattle picture by Mademoiselle Rosa Bonheur, is admirable for its truth. In the German school, a historical subject, by Hasencleoer, of Dusseldorf, of a recent event, is very remarkable. Two small studies by Schandorf, who painted the frescoes in the Basilica at Munich, in conjunction with Hess, deserve attention for their excellence. There are, altogether, about one hundred pictures from Berlin, Munich, Dresden, Darmstadt, and other parts of Germany. A small elaborate picture of a charge of cavalry by Heicke, of Vienna, has been sent from Buckingham Palace. Although the Belgian and Dutch schools are not numerously displayed, there are several good performances. The chief of the Academy of Antwerp, the Baron Wappers, is represented in three pictures, lent to the Exhibition by the King of the Belgians, Prince Albert, and Mons. De Pret, a wealthy merchant of Antwerp. A colossal picture of the Death of Nelson, by Slingeneyer, of Brussels, and some examples of H. Leys, Madow, the Chevalier Eckhout, J. Van Eycken, Waldorp, Schotel, and other familiar names will be found. The triennial exhibition of modern art being now open in Brussels, has prevented this interesting school from having more extensive contributions. One of the most noticeable works of art here, as being illustrative of the modern school of Italy, is a picture by the Cavalier Podesti, of Rome, representing an episode of the siege of Ancona by the Emperor Barbarossa, in 1160, containing upwards of forty life-size figures. The Italian school, besides, comprises pictures by Schiavone, of Venice, Ippolito Caffi, Giorgetti, and others.

The architectural subjects are few, and confined to interiors of ecclesiastical edifices, by Dauzats, Genisson, of Louvain, and Hamman, of Copenhagen: this last-named artist exhibits an interior of the cathedral of Burgos, remarkable for its skill in drawing, good breadth of light and shade, and extraordinary care of details.

Altogether the exhibition is very instructive of the modern foreign schools, although it would be wrong if we were to lead our readers to expect to find their great and famous *chefs d'œuvre* here. Still there is plenty to gratify a visitor; and in the evenings when the saloons are lighted, the effect is very agreeable to view the collection in promenading the splendid interior of the mansion; the grand staircase, eight large rooms, and the corridor being completely covered with pictures.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

THE Great Western do not seem to be the only company at loggerheads with their contractors. "We find the following," says the *Liverpool Times*, "in the *Limerick Chronicle*:—'Fox and Henderson, contractors of the Bandon and Cork Railway, refuse to give up the line, now complete, to the directors, unless they are paid 30,000*l.*, and the directors contend that they are in possession of the line, and owe the contractors only half the sum claimed.' The same paper says, 'The agents of the contractors, Fox and Henderson, of the Bandon Railway, are held to bail at Cork, on charge of the directors, for putting obstructions on the line and pulling up the rails, and the contractors have preferred an indictment against the directors for unlawful assembly!' The case was tried last week at Cork assizes, and lasted three days. It ended in the acquittal of the agents of Messrs. Fox and Henderson, and the entry of a *nolle prosequi* by the counsel of the Bandon Railway Company, or rather of 'The Crown,' in the cross case against the parties connected with that company."——A discovery has been lately made of the insecure state of an arch by which the Great Western Railway crosses a road in Ruscombe parish: the construction of the arch is upon the skew principle; but the whole, about 25 feet span, has been discovered to require under-pinning or aboring up.——A Liverpool contemporary, in reference to workmen's trips, remarks that, "To spend their spare funds in a weekly 'booze' is happily now going out of fashion with workpeople generally, and they have adopted the much more rational and healthy practice of cheap excursionizing. Within the last few days the hands of Messrs. Dawson, J. and A. Leigh, Watson and Alsop, Gratrix, and Lancaster and Son (Manchester firms), numbering about 1,200 people, have visited this town. Large numbers of them went over the water to Rock Ferry. The workpeople of Messrs. Swainson, Birley, and Co., to the number of about 1,600, were conveyed to Liverpool and Rock Ferry, on Saturday. The hands of Messrs. Humber, Mr. Edge, Messrs. Horrocks, Miller, and Co., and the trustees of Mr. J. R. Postlethwaite, have made a trip to Blackpool; and those of Messrs. Ainsworth and Co. to Fleetwood. On Monday and Tuesday large numbers of country people visited our town, from Manchester, Salford, Heywood, Blackburn, and Bolton."

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Melton.—A memorial window of stained glass has been placed in east aisle of south transept in Melton church. It is the gift of Mr. John Keal, of Melton, and the work of Hardman, of Birmingham. The design includes four full-length figures representing Saints Luke, Paul, James, and John, and is interspersed with Gothic tracery. A smaller new window, over the south door, shows a figure of our Saviour in stained glass.

Kenilworth.—The foundation stone of St. John's Church was laid on Tuesday in last week. The site abuts on the Leamington railway on one side, and faces the Warwick coach road on the other. It is about an acre in extent, and affords space for a parsonage, which is to be built on one side of the church, and a school, which is to be erected on the other. The cost of the land is 350*l.* The church is to be built in the Gothic style, with a tower and spire, at a cost of 2,500*l.*, exclusive of site and architect's per centage. It is to contain seats for 600, of which 400 are to be free.

Liverpool.—The town council have sanctioned the purchase of the Exhibition model of the Liverpool docks, and collection of imports, for 700*l.*——The Gas Company have, as usual, declared a dividend for the last half-year at the rate of 10*l.* per cent. per annum—the highest allowed by Act of Parliament. Besides this they have announced the intention of bringing up certain old dividends to the same mark. The amount of profit for the last year alone has been declared to have been 45,034*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* It ought never to be forgotten that this is the result of forced reductions of price repeatedly made in spite of an immense deal of kicking, sprawling, and outcry about ruination on the part of the company. At same meeting the usual remuneration of 500*l.* was voted to the directors.

Leighton.—A new church, designed by Mr. W. H. Gee, architect, is being erected at Leighton by Messrs. Walker, the builders of Birkenhead park villas.

Chesterfield.—A stained glass window has been erected in Trinity Church, by Mr. Robert Stephenson, M.P., in memory of his father. It is a triplet of the Early English style of thirteenth century. Each window is enclosed by a border, and the general ground is ruby, on which is displayed flowering scroll work of the character peculiar to this period, and which prevails in the A'Becketi Glass in Canterbury Cathedral. In the midst of these, geometrical forms are marginally developed, so as to create panels of various forms, all of which are filled with mosaics and monograms. The panels are, however, filled with scripture subjects.

Newcastle.—The removal of the Royal Grammar School, to make room for the Central Railway Station, remarks the local *Chronicle*, "destroyed the last remains of the old building of the 'West Spittle,' or Hospital of St Mary the Virgin: and a church, master's house, almshouses, and school, are about to be erected in its room, upon a site purchased for that purpose at the Elswick Estate. Sir George Rose, the Master in Chancery, to whom the cause stands referred, has thrown open to competition the designs and plans for the building of the new hospital; and the collection of drawings has been exhibited in the Merchants' Court, Guildhall. Along with the competition designs, a series of plans prepared by Mr. Dobson, some time since, for the local commissioners, are exposed to view. The drawings are, some of them, quite works of art, being coloured and finished up to a high pitch, and ranking, in fact, as picturesque watercolour paintings, more than as architectural designs. There is a considerable likeness in the style of the whole. The church in every case is of the Gothic school, and of either the Early English or Decorated Period; and the roofs are of open wooden framing of a bold and striking character. Mr. Dobson's plans give also a wooden groined roof. The proprietors of property in the township of Elswick held a meeting on Friday, which emanated in a request contained in a letter from the Master in Chancery, courting an expression of opinion as to the desirability of any one of the plans for the intended new church and almshouses at Ryehill, for the Virgin Mary's Hospital. After an examination of all the plans, the meeting came to the unanimous conclusion of forwarding a memorial recommending the plans submitted by Mr. Dobson."

Alnwick.—A monument, from the studio of Mr. Carew, of London, has been lately placed in the north-eastern transept of St. Paul's Church, Alnwick, to the memory of the late Duke of Northumberland. The monument consists of an altar tomb, formed of polished Caen stone, 9 feet long by 4 feet 9 inches in breadth, and forms a pedestal 2½ feet high, on the top of which, in a recumbent position, is placed a full-length figure of the late duke, robed as a knight of the garter, with the ducal coronet on his head: round his neck he wears the collar with the George suspended in full and beautiful relief: on the left breast is placed the star and badge, and on the left knee the garter and motto of the order. His feet rest

For a comprehensive guide on OCR and PDF Compression go to our website